

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 05 June	1Kings 01-04	Granted
2) 12 June	1Kings 05-08	Repentance
3) 19 June	1Kings 09-11	Compromised
4) 26 June	1Kings 12-14	Divided
5) 03 July	1Kings 15-16	Return
6) 10 July	1Kings 17-18	Proven
7) 17 July	1Kings 19-22	Hope
8) 24 July	2Kings 01-05	God Heals
9) 31 July	2Kings 06-08	God Provides
10) 07 Aug	2Kings 09-12	God Honors
11) 14 Aug	2Kings 13-17	God Judges
12) 21 Aug	2Kings 18-21	God Hears
13) 28 Aug	2Kings 22-25	God Moves

INTRODUCTION

- The southern Judean kingdom was getting weaker spiritually, politically, and economically after each succeeding king
- The northern kingdom of Israel continues to spin out of control, reaching new lows under King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel
- Both Jewish kingdoms compromised their beliefs with the world by succumbing to idol worship, be it ever so covertly or outright overtly

Passage	Comments
1Kings 15:1-8	<p>King Abijam Was Not Wholly Devoted to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Abijam (also called Abijah) only reigned 3 years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ His heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord like the heart of his father, David ♦ How devoted are we to God? Wholly or Partially? What are the indicators? Answered prayer? Obedience? ♦ To his credit, Abijam defeated his rival, Jeroboam, on the battlefield, slaughtering 500,000 Israelites, after he and his army cried out to God.....2Chron 13 • Many Judean kings were compared to King David, their ultimate ancestor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Solomon did what was evil in the sight of God, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David had done. 1Kings 11:6 ♦ Asa did what was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father (g'g'grandfather)..... 1Kings 15:11 ♦ Amaziah did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father.....2Kings 14:3 ♦ Ahaz did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father.2Kings 16:2 ♦ Hezekiah did right in the sight of the LORD, according to all his father David did.....2Kings 18:3 ♦ Josiah did right in the sight of the LORD & walked in all the way of his father David.....2Kings 22:2 • vv4-5. God moved to establish Jerusalem for the sake of David, for his heart was right with God (except in the case of Uriaah the Hittite). What were the impacts to David's sin? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God's highest priority is to protect His Name, His Reputation, His Glory, then His Mission, His people ♦ How do we protect God's Name and Glory from disdain?

God Often Moves for the Sake of His Name, for Abraham's and David's Sake, for Jerusalem's Sake, for the Sake of Christ, for our Sake, and for the Sake of the Gentiles and the Gospel [IOW, for the good of each]

- Gen 26:24. I will bless you, and multiply your descendants, for the **sake of My servant Abraham**.
- 1Kings 11:32 But [Rehoboam] will have one tribe, **for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem**
- 1Kings 15:4. **For David's sake** God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to raise up his son after him & to establish Jerusalem
- Ezek 20:44. Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you **for My name's sake**, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, ..."
- Ezek 36:22. It is **not for your sake**, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, **but for My holy name**, which you have profaned
- Mark 8:35. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for My sake and the gospel's** will save it.
- 2Cor 8:9. **For our sake**, Christ became poor
- Eph 3:1. Paul is a prisoner of Christ for the **sake of the Gentiles**

Passage	Comments
15:9-24 & 2Chron 15-16	<p>King Asa was Like His G'G'Grandfather, David, Sorta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv11. Asa was a good king even though his father, Abijam, was less than perfect see 2Chron 15-16 • vv12. Asa eliminated "male cult prostitutes" from the land, probably by force. 2Chron 15:13 records Asa covenanting to slay any who would not seek the Lord. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This came from encouragement received from prophet Azariah – "If you seek God, He will let you find Him. If you forsake Him, He will forsake you... so be strong, there is reward for you"2Chron 15 ♦ Asa's reforms were incomplete and short-lived. Jehoshaphat, his son, and King Josiah, 250 years later, would also remove male cult prostitutes from the temple complex,..... 1Kings 22:46; 2Kings 23:7 ♦ Could such a national cleansing of sin occur today? ♦ What would it take? How long would it take? ♦ Would everyone be on board with it? • vv13. Asa also wasn't afraid of family. He removed his idolatrous Mom from being Queen. • 2Chronicles sheds additional insight into Asa's heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ As good as Asa was, he was not perfect. In his later years, Asa trusted in Syria, not God, so he suffered many wars. He also suffered diseased feet, but he preferred to trust in physicians rather in God first.
15:25-27	<p>Nadab Rules Israel for 2 Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He followed the wicked ways of his predecessor and was assassinated by Baasha.
15:28-34	<p>Baasha Rules Israel for 24 Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baasha assassinated Nadab, and slew the household of Jeroboam, as prophesied by Ahijah.. 1Kings 14:9-16
16:1-34	<p>God has Control even over Wicked Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-14. God foretells the downfall of Baasha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ His family members were to be eaten by scavengers ♦ Why such cruelty from God? • vv15-34. God allowed one wicked king worse than the one before to rule Israel (Elah → Zimri → Omri → Ahab) – WHY? – Possibly to justify His actions to destroy & disperse Israel and eventually set up Israel's return, restoration, and the coming of the Messiah

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- God is not locked into only showing mercy to Jews and Christians. He can show mercy to heathen widows & orphans, and to unrighteous peoples and nations when they show humbleness, repentance, willingness to know God..... 2Chron 15:2-4
- ...and God often times initiates the mercy to entice people to repent and come to Him Rom 2:4

NEXT WEEK: 1Kings 17-18. Elijah is introduced and right away he takes control of the weather and prevents rain for several years and brings down fire from Heaven to demonstrate His God rules.

